



Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

Celebrating 34 Years of Leadership & Advocacy

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MEMBERS

Kecia B. Weller
President

Janet A. Neal
1st Vice President

John B. Troost
2nd Vice President

Vacant
Treasurer

Wan Chun Chang
Michael G. Gureckas
Maria Mustelie-Parrish
Harley D. Rubenstein
Alexia Teran
Wendy L. Welt
Sheila D. Wright

MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, July 15, 2009, in Room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal at 1:35 p.m. The following were present:

ATTENDANCE

Janet A. Neal, 1st Vice President
John B. Troost, 2nd Vice President
Wan Chun Chang
Alexia Teran
Wendy L. Welt
Sheila Wright

Excused Absence

Kecia B. Weller
Michael G. Gureckas
Maria Mustelie-Parrish
Harley Rubenstein

Board of Supervisors

Salya Mohamedy, Asst. Deputy-2nd District
Don Ashton, Deputy Executive Officer
Rhonda Rangel, Staff
Mireya Rivera, Staff
Emma De Jesus, Staff
Audra Galang, Staff

1st Vice President Neal announced in the meeting her goal to change the speaker form and to develop a mechanism to track issues brought before the Commission and inform the Board of Supervisors to further review concerns of the Commission and the public before receiving information from the media.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Helen Martin provided public comment on Access Services, Inc.

Teddie-Joy Remhild provided public comment to promote the 250% Working Disabled Medi-Cal Program. This is a State training program funded by the Federal Government which states people with disabilities can work, earn money, receive Medi-Cal Health coverage and assist to eliminate share of cost. There will be a training session to be held at the Sierra Education Center in Whittier on July 22, 2009 and at the Goodwill Industries in Long Beach, August 12, 2009. Those interested are encouraged to attend.

1st Vice President Neal requested staff to contact Ms. Remhild address promoting the 250% Working Disabled Medi-Cal Program and issues brought forward to the Commission

(Commissioner Wendy Welt joined the meeting.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report was submitted. 1st Vice President Neal expressed her appreciation for all the support given to her. She also spoke on behalf of President Weller and thanked everyone for their support and continued encouragement for her quick recovery.

1st Vice President Neal goals for the Commission for the upcoming year are to network with disabled groups and have more outreach to different groups.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Rangel informed Commissioners of a Wellness Fair to be held Wednesday, July 22, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. across the street at the Music Center. This fair is open to all County employees, and as a Commissioner they are invited to attend. There will be free health screenings and resource tables.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL TO SEND A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO THE LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA

On motion of Commissioner Chang, seconded by Commissioner Teran the Commission approved to send a letter of support to the Little People of America.

(Commissioner John B. Troost joined the meeting.)

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2009

On motion of Commissioner Welt, seconded by Commissioner Teran, the minutes of June 17, 2009 were approved as submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

No Executive Committee report was submitted. 1st Vice President Neal requested the new Executive Committee contact her to decide on a date for the next meeting.

B. Public Relations Committee

Radio Program – Disability Network, KTYM 1460 AM aired with a focus on Stress Management and alternatives to stress. Ms. Rangel reported the County is still working to include the captioning to the network.

C. Events Committee

Access Awards Luncheon – The Access Awards Luncheon nomination forms and sponsorship letters have been emailed and mailed out. A press release announcing the acceptance of nomination forms has been emailed out to all newspapers, television and radio stations.

1st Vice President Neal requested staff also provide telephone notifications on the Access Awards for better responses. The Committee has selected individuals to honor at the Access Awards Luncheon but will not be announced until confirmations from the awardees have been received.

D. Bill Tainter Scholarship Program

Each of the scholarship recipients were contacted and were requested to attend the July 8, 2009 Events Committee meeting. The committee had the opportunity to meet Second District scholarship Recipient, Xylene Bulosna and her mother. Xylene was very thankful for her scholarship and was excited to attend the Board presentation. The tentative date for the Scholarship Board presentation is Tuesday, August 18, 2009. Ms. Rangel has been in contact with either the recipient or the parents of those that were not able to attend the July 8, 2009 Events Committee meeting to assure they attend the mandatory Scholarship Board presentation. A special thanks was given to Mr. Chris Gabler, who attended the July 8, 2009 meeting and provided refreshments for the Committee.

E. Community Service Committee

1st Vice President Neal reported the Committee has had few brief meetings mainly to review complaints submitted by members of the public on transportation services. Staff has been asked to monitor these complaints for review by the Board of Supervisors, specifically 2nd District Supervisor Ridley-Thomas and 5th District Supervisor Antonovich.

Commissioner Wright requested staff to gather all the data and invite a representative from Access Services, Inc to speak before the Commission to show contact between the Commission and the transport agency

1st Vice President Neal is currently working to address complaints against Medi-Cal. All complaints on Medi-Cal should be submitted to her in writing.

TRANSPORTATION

A. Access Services, Inc. (ASI) Report

Kurt Hagen was not present. 1st Vice President Neal requested staff speak to Mr. Hagen or his office to reiterate the Commissions Report be submitted even if there is no representative attending the meeting. Any report submitted by the Agency will be received and filed accordingly.

Commissioner Wright requested staff send a letter of notification on the report request.

B. LA County Transportation Authority (METRO) Report

No report was given. Mr. Chip Hazen did not attend the meeting.

C. Office of Affirmative Action Compliance Report

No report was given. Mr. Gordon Anthony, Senior Deputy Compliance Officer did not attend.

ITEMS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

Because of Budget constraints a workshop planned for the Commissioners has been postponed to a future date in January 2009.

Commissioner Welt requested staff obtain a speaker from the State to update the Commission on the Medi-Cal, IHSS, SSI, and funding cuts to other benefits to seniors and people with disabilities.

Announcements

Commissioner Teran would like the Commission to research being part of next year's Wellness Fair sponsored by The Joint Labor-Management Advisory Committee on Productivity Enhancement for all County employees.

INSTALLATION OF THE ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 2009-2010 TERM

The new officers for the 2009-2010 for the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities, were sworn in by, Don Aston, Deputy Executive Officer of the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors.

Congratulations to the newly elected 2009-2010 officers of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities.

Janet Neal – President

John B. Troost – First Vice President

Wan Chun Chang – Second Vice President

Alexia Teran – Treasurer

Singing group Outta Site performed for the new officers.

Adjournments

On motion of Commissioner Welt, seconded by Commissioner Teran, unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m. in memory of the following people:

Marcella M. Meyers, founder of Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness

Ed McMahon

Gale Storm

Karl Malden

Farrah Fawcett

Michael Jackson

GUESTS

Larry Albers, Handiplate Research and Development
Disabled Parking Central (HRDDPC)
Michelle Baxley, Destiny World Travel
William Baxley, Destiny World Travel
Jennifer Carbine, Outta Site Asst. Manager
Phyllis Coto, Los Angeles County Client Coalition
Nancy del Rio, Outta Site
Sandy Eisenberg, Total Recall Captioning, Inc.
Chris Gabler
Cindy Kim, Total Recall Captioning, Inc.
Helen Martin
Joe Martinez
Cheryl Matlock
Juanita Matlock
Jesse Padilla, East Los Angeles Regional Center
Teddie-Joy Remhild
Rose Rossier
Robert Smith, Outta Site Singer
Cindy Vitto, Los Angeles County Client Coalition
Francisco Video, Get Involved Productions